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## THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL

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The strike of bituminous coal miners in West Virginia has ended, and, as far as can be judged from the dispatches, the strikers did not gain a point.

President Roosevelt left Washington last evening for a brief Southern tour. The indications are that he will be cordially received and hospitably treated.

It would add immensely to the interest of the Democratic district convention to be held in this city to-day to take an informal rising vote on the Tom Johnson platform.

With the Johnson-Bryan crowd running the Western end of the Democratic party and the Hill-Gorman combination controlling the Eastern end, the prospect of harmony is more remote than ever.

Seeing what the Bryan Democrats, commanded by Johnson, have done in Ohio, the Bryan Democrats in Indiana are inwardly cursing themselves for being silenced in the State convention by a few "gold-bug" leaders.

The board of elections in New York city recommends the purchase of voting machines for that city. The cost will be \$84,100, but other election expenses would be reduced \$12,000. The voting machine should not be forgotten in Indiana.

History furnishes no parallel to the repeated devastations of the Island of Martinique by volcanic eruptions. If the entire island should be abandoned, as now seems probable, generations might elapse before it would be populated again.

There are thousands of Tom Johnson and Bryan men in Indiana who would like to vote Johnson's ticket. It is too late for them to gain a voting residence in Ohio, and the next best thing they can do is not to vote the anti-Bryan-Johnson ticket in Indiana.

Col. Tom Johnson is a man who mistakes whims for principles and an exaggerated conception of his own personality for statesmanship. He is a successful street-railroad magnate, but a public affairs and the science of government he is absolutely ignorant.

The defeat of compulsory arbitration by the Trades Union Congress of Great Britain shows they are not ready to follow the example of New Zealand. The question of compulsory arbitration has not yet been threshed out to an ultimate conclusion in any country.

Mr. C. F. W. Neely ought not to presume too much on the amnesty granted him by the Cuban government. It is true that it releases him from further prosecution, but it does not change the facts of history. Mr. Neely should not try the patience of the American people by coming home to pose as a martyr.

The Cincinnati Enquirer will have its quiet fun with Mr. Tom Johnson. It has a bit of it when it says "the Democrats of Wisconsin and Iowa held state conventions the same day of the meeting in Sandusky." Again, evidently to show that Mayor Tom employs a valet, it says that the public criticism because the valet rode with him in his automobile is far-fetched, since "it would have been a cruelty out of keeping with the humanitarian character of the mayor to require the valet to walk."

"Holland," the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Enquirer, explains how Judge Parker, whom the Democrats desire to nominate for Governor in New York, happened to be elected chief justice of the Court of Appeals in that State in 1897. The independents in New York city, who were supporting the present Mayor Low for mayor, by some oversight did not put the name of their Ballot candidate for chief justice on their ballot, so that 50,000 or 60,000 men who voted for Low did not vote for chief justice, which elected Judge Parker. Now that he will not be a candidate for Governor the story is told. "Holland" also declares that the Democrats have no hope of carrying New York in November.

The Minneapolis Tribune says that under the provisions of the primary election law which applies to that city the Democrats may nominate the Republican candidate for Congress as they did the Republican candidate for mayor in 1900. The law provides that both parties shall hold their primaries the same day and at the same place, the voter being left to select the party with which he shall vote at the primary. There is but one Democratic candidate for Congress, but there are three as-

pirants for the Republican nomination. One hundred votes can nominate the Democratic candidate as well as 5,000. This leaves the mass of the Democrats under any central direction to go into the Republican booths and vote for some candidate who may be considered the least satisfactory to the Republicans, and to nominate him. That sort of a primary law is worse than none, the real object of a primary election law being to secure to the voters of a party the right to nominate their own candidates.

## UNWILLING STRIKERS.

In his report on the anthracite coal strike Commissioner of Labor Wright says that nearly all of the officers of the miners' union persistently opposed the strike on the ground that it would probably last all summer and entail great hardship and suffering on the miners as well as work incalculable injury to the industrial interests of the country. They also believed, he says, that many of the alleged wrongs of the miners might be corrected by appeals to the operators, but when the latter refused to confer with representatives of the mine workers the latter took matters into their own hands and decided that a strike should be ordered. In other words, they overruled the officers. The latter are presumably men of superior intelligence and more conservative than the mass of miners. Events have proved that they were right in their belief that a strike, if ordered, would last all summer and entail great hardship and suffering on the men and injury to business. They must also have felt that there was some doubt as to the success of a strike, as there is, of course, in every case. The Hazleton convention of last May 12 was in deliberation three days after it reached a decision to order a strike, and then there was a considerable vote against it. The total vote was 811, of which 461 were in favor of striking and 350 were opposed. The large vote shows that nearly one-half of the miners were opposed to the strike, but they were forced into it by a majority vote against the judgment of nearly all the district officers.

In the face of later events and of the present situation there is no reason to believe that a much larger proportion of the men regret the strike to-day than were opposed to it at the beginning. If nearly one-half of the miners were opposed to the strike on May 15 it is safe to say that considerably more than half of them now regret it. They were fairly outvoted and overruled by a majority, and the strike being on, they were compelled by their union pledges and by the force of miners' opinion to stay with it. Their situation is that of a protesting minority who have been forced by a numerical majority to pursue a course which their judgment has at the time approved.

The New York Sun publishes a letter from a miner, now on strike, who is evidently one of this overruled minority. He says: "I was a delegate to the Hazleton convention and I know that many delegates who voted to strike went there determined to vote against striking." He says further that the convention was carried off its feet and stamped into voting to strike by the reading of a message to President Mitchell stating that the operators refused to confer or to arbitrate. "This message," says the writer, "acted on the convention like a spark in a powder house. A delegate jumped upon a chair, and, waving an American flag in his hand, cried: 'Let us strike; the United States is with us.' Instantly the half-hearted were tumbling over themselves to get in line, and we struck." This is an interesting bit of inside history, and it shows that a miners' convention may be stampeded as well as a political convention. And yet, out of a total of 811 votes, 350 were against a strike. The writer in the Sun, who says he is a member of the union and a firm believer in organized labor, says:

I am a miner and I am not working. You ask why? Because I have a son engaged in the grocery business whose customer list is made up of the names of the mines; because my daughter has a small millinery shop over his store; because I value in life by exercising my will. But oh, the wrath that steals into my heart when the district officers hold me and other men occupying similar positions up as examples of true, self-sacrificing, manly, steadfast strikers for American principles and better conditions when they know in their hearts that we were free of our responsibilities we would be cutting coal to-day.

This affords another inside view of the motives that are operating with some of the strikers. If the present strike fails to secure important advantages for the men after all the loss and hardships it has imposed on them, the large minority who went into it unwillingly and against their better judgment will have additional reason for wishing that better counsels had prevailed.

## "A DOUBT-DISPELLING SPEECH."

The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, which is not a Republican paper, styles the President's address in Fitchburg, Mass., "a doubt-dispelling speech." The President said that if all large corporations were regarded as trusts to be destroyed, he would like to have all men ponder the folly of the man who cries "destroy the trusts" without giving an idea of what he really means to do. "But I will gladly go with him," said Mr. Roosevelt. "If he says destroy the evil in the trusts." Then he went on to say that the thing to do is to find out the evil and seek to apply the remedies. To make war on trusts or large corporations generally brings the country face to face with destruction of its prosperity, and when it comes to that the people will decide that it is better that a few men should prosper too much than that all should not prosper enough. So the man who advocates the destruction of all trusts, meaning all large corporations, is at best a quack and the worst enemy of the Republic. The President insisted in that speech that a big corporation may be doing excellent work for the country, so what we want, above all things, when striving to get a plan, is to get one which will not interfere with a corporation which is handling itself squarely and honestly. Such, in effect, are the views of the President. They are sound. Large corporations employ thousands of men. To make indiscriminate war upon them will cause suspension and turn thousands of men to idleness.

The President is equally frank as to remedies. He believes that Congress can enact other laws than the present anti-trust law which may be more or less effective, but he expressed the conviction that it will be necessary to change the Constitution before the federal government can assume supervision of corporations, and that he believes will be a work of time, for the reason that States will be unwilling to cede

themselves of their power over corporations and vest it in the federal government. For the present the laws on the federal statute books affecting interstate commerce will be enforced, as the suits which have been begun are a guarantee of the President's good faith. The report of Labor Commissioner Wright makes it clear that there can be no application of federal law to the anthracite coal trouble. The effort of the administration to put an end to the payment of rebates by railroad companies has been successful, so that one of the worst promoters of monopoly has come to an end.

The Brooklyn Eagle, which is an independent Democratic paper, concludes its comments on the President's "doubt-dispelling speech" with the following opinions, which are worthy of careful consideration:

A strange spirit comes over Democratic dreams when it is proposed that for certain vital purposes the federal government should be subordinated to the federal authorities that State supremacy shall be subordinated, that to the federal authorities that State supremacy shall be subordinated. This is what Bryan contended for when he left the White House. The federal authorities that they could follow the trusts into every nook and corner of the country and destroy them. Nothing of the sort will ever be done. Trade combinations are still in their infancy. Some of them, having been accompanied by unsound constitutions, have fallen by the wayside. Others are still in their infancy. The public has no occasion for alarm. There are curative processes with which the law can and can have nothing whatever to do. Everybody is not a scoundrel and the country is not going to perdition. It is the best of its kind. 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